We Celebrate A Milestone

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION·VALLEY

Vol. V No. 1 SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AUGUST 1990

Towers apartments undergo renovation

Geneva Towers is undergoing renovation. Forty rehabed units are ready for occupancy.

"We have plastered, painted and put in new floors and fixtures," claimed David Harbatkin, site manager. "A total of seventy-five units are vacant, and the other 35 will be renovated immediately."

The management at the Towers has made 45 evictions to date. "Mr. Burger is determined to evict people who are creating problems for our residents," Harbatkin continued. "We are serious about this. It's our responsibility."

Marie August and Bettye Partee, Certified Occupancy Specialists of the National Center for Housing Management, are the leasing agents. Both have been at Geneva Towers for years and are well acquainted with the tenants.

"We are screening new tenants carefully," August reported. "They must have a demonstrated record as a tenant with their obligations paid. We check their credit and their reputation as tenants. We turn down four out of five applicants."

The management company is renovating units in Geneva Towers.

Geneva Towers has been plagued for the past twenty years with a reputation for electrical black-outs, locked emergency doors, poor maintenance and security.

Harbatkin said, "We are out to change that image. Our back-up generator works fine, and we haven't had any electrical problems. The

See TOWERS, Page 10

The old MaxiCare Building will house terminally ill people.

Medical building to be hospice

A fifty-one unit home for people with life-threatening illnesses is being planned for the property at 141 Leland and 5 to 11 Peabody, the former site of MaxiCare.

Hospice by the Bay/Community Hospice Foundation of the Bay Area, Inc. plans to renovate the property and develop a permanent residence for children, adults, and seniors and to provide all the support services necessary to ensure stable living arrangements for people living with life-threatening illnesses.

The Community Hospice Foundation is a non-profit, community-based organization formed in 1982 with a goal of providing practical and emotional support to persons living with life-threatening illnesses. It is Medi-Cal and Medicare certified and provides care through its skilled nurses and social workers, home health aides, art therapists, dieticians and volunteers.

An ongoing service provided by Hospice by the Bay has been the provision of housing.

Hutton Track Club runs away with meet

San Francisco's Billy Hutton Track Club sprinted away from the National Junior Olympics in Lincoln, Nebraska, July 25-29, with seven medals. Of the 70 track club members, 15 won berths at the nationals where 6,000 young athletes competed.

The southeast section can boast of a number of these track club members:

Kenneth Smith, Damien Rand, Nicole Wilburn, Tonia Broden, Shonte Battle, Quentin Ford, and Sani Cook all live in the area, as does their coach Billy Ray Smith, father of Kenneth.

Lindburgh and Bessie Beasley of Girard Street are the proud grandparents of three Hutton Track Club members: Shonte Battle, Nicole Wilburn and Mervyn Howard.

Results just in from the Nationals show Kamailia Williams, 12, won a Gold Medal in the 800 meter Midget Girls race; Tonia Broden, 12, came in second in the 200 meter hurdles for a silver medal and 7th in the 200 meter dash.

Tonia has been with the Club for four seasons. She attends Voice of Pentecost Academy where she is an 8th grader. Tonia

Tonia Broden on the run.
PHOTO BY ROSEMARY HOBIN

took two firsts at the recent International meet where she

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In the Vine

Local craftsman page 3

Boys/Girls Club page 4 hiring staff

Letter from the Editor

By Pat Christensen

The GRAPEVINE is five years old. Founded in August 1985, with a grant from the San Francisco Foundation, the newspaper has consistently devoted coverage to issues, concerns, triumphs and achievements of the people who live and work in Visitacion Valley, Little Hollywood, Bayshore and Portola neighborhoods. Now it's time to expand our coverage.

Beginning with this issue, the GRAPEVINE will be delivered to storefronts in the Excelsior District. It is hoped that the paper can also expand to Crocker Amazon and Geneva/Mission in the near future. These neighborhoods do not have a community newspaper.

There is a very serious issue facing the GRAPEVINE, however. That is the issue of funding. The San Francisco Foundation grant is nearing its end. The GRAPEVINE, even though it is staffed by volunteers, does have expenses. Our advertising revenues have never met those expenses.

Very soon now, the GRAPEVINE will embark upon a new marketing plan which is being prepared by a consultant which the San Francisco Foundation provided. A preliminary draft of the plan indicates that we should plan a fundraising event; beef-up our advertising sales, apply for new grants, and increase our subscription base and price.

You will notice more ads in this issue than we have had for several years. We are grateful and delighted to welcome Mr. Joseph Savoie to the GRAPEVINE staff. Joe is our new advertising manager and responsible for this burst of revenue-producing advertising. Joe is also responsible for distributing copies of the GRAPEVINE in the Excelsior district, which he calls home.

Beginning with this issue, our subscription rate is increased to $9.00 per year, and renewal notices will be sent soon to our subscribers. If you would like to have the GRAPEVINE mailed to your home each month, please use the coupon on Page 11 and mail it with your check to 50 Raymond Avenue, SF 94134.

The GRAPEVINE has had a dedicated and loyal staff throughout these past five years: Julie Kavanagh, columnist; Carla Villanueva, circulation manager; Arkie Mangelsdorf, typist; Marie Vidal, mailing clerk, all started at the beginning. We have been fortunate to add on John Moses, layout and headline ace; Florence Pewtherer, billing clerk; Phil Wahl, bookkeeper; Joseph Porter with his wonderful Pinin series; Matthew Brady, resident historian; Gerry Galvan, reporter; and our wonderful delivery people: Raymond Baldwin, John Sant, Jr., Silvia Chan, and the athletes at Wilson High School.

Many people have aided and abetted the GRAPEVINE through these five years. Anne Kaartunen gave the paper its starting kick. She sold advertising, contributed copy and created the monthly puzzle - and she was always coming up with some new idea to make the paper better.

GRAPEVINE
VISITACION·VALLEY

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Commentary

Programs for the city's homeless

Throughout California and across the nation, homelessness is testing the political courage of elected officials.

Nearly a decade after the Reagan Administration abdicated its commitment to low-cost housing, Americans are experiencing "Compassion fatigue" from the homeless issue.

Scared by aggressive panhandlers and unsettled by disheveled street people, citizens are demanding some sort of solution.

In New York and Atlanta, that public restiveness prompted orders to use police force to clear public parks and streets of the homeless.

Closer to home, a pro-homeless rally in Santa Cruz sparked an angry counter-demonstration, where participants shouted "homeless, go to hell."

Even here in San Francisco, a city known for its tolerance, one politician demanded using police force to roust homeless people from a public park in Civic Center across from City Hall.

As mayor, I shared the impatience with finding a solution. But San Francisco has chosen a different path, rejecting the notion that homeless people

Mayor Art Agnos

should be rousted out of town on the end of a police baton. Instead, we have constructed, and last month began installing, a new system of choices designed to help homeless people pull their lives back together.

At its core is a fundamental shift away from the traditional American disaster relief model most cities, including San Francisco, responded to homelessness with in the early 1980s.

Treating homeless people like victims of floods, hurricanes or earthquakes ignores the underlying causes of homeless:

See AGNOS, Page 12

Centervoice

This is a copy of a letter I sent to Elizabeth Dole, U. S. Secretary of Labor. It is by way of a suggestion for developing a resource to help youth, who are currently on the streets, unsupervised because they have nothing to do, and nowhere to go.

Dear Mrs. Dole:

I run a multi purpose Community Center in San Francisco. We are in a low income neighborhood that not only has the highest population of children in the city, but is also rather infamous as the home turf of the most feared "youth gang" in the area.

The boys referred to when others speak of the "Sunnydale" or the "Swampy Desert" or "SD" are mostly 13 and 14 years old. They fight, drink and vandalize property. They also shoot each other and innocent bystanders. They are just now getting old enough to have a work permit and work at an honest job, but for them, it is too late.

I'm going to make a proposal to you that at first will sound crazy, foolish and heartless, but hear me out.

The Child Labor Laws were written in the days when sweatshops proliferated, when 14 hour days and 6 day weeks were the norm, and when children were made to work on dangerous machinery. I submit that these laws are now outmoded and should be reviewed.

Children who are 11 years old are highly motivated to work, but not allowed. They would be fine in certain types of jobs, and would then have the opportunity to experience work before the world of drugs and violence swallows them up.

When they are in Preschool and Kindergarten, they have dress-up corners with fireman helmets, safety helmets, police and nurses hats, etc. They have miniature tools and work-like items. They play at working, for imitating adults is how children learn.

We ask kids in school what they are going to be when they grow up, but when they reach a certain age, they are no longer allowed to practise at growing up. Let's not kid ourselves, we cannot protect them from the world by sheltering them. Better, we should let them work under closely supervised conditions and allow them to keep on that developmental path that will see them reach the age of fourteen with the same high motivation that their younger brothers and sisters have.

See CENTER, Page 11

Ancient craft – modern art

By Pat Christensen

Shaun Weisbach claimed that a fascination for fire tempted him to begin blowing glass. In his studio in the southern part of San Francisco, he faces fire head-on each day.

Weisbach's primary furnace, which he constructed, keeps 500 pounds of glass molten at temperatures between 2000 to 2400 degrees Farenheit - just right for blowing. The furnace is never cooled; however, it is equipped with an electronic safety system should anything go wrong.

"The Fire Department people drop in here on a regular basis," Weisbach cracked.

Weisbach's glassware line includes distinctively designed and colored glassware, collectable paperweights and marbles and spectacular plates created with swirling colors in asymetrical shapes.

Creation of the plates starts with the hand-crafting of colored, glass patties. They are stored in a heated strong box at a temperature which keeps the patties just soft enough so that a light tap with the tip of Weisbach's blow pipe is enough to meld the pattie to the blob of glass hanging on the pipe.

With quick, sure movements, Weisbach with his head wrapped in a wet kerchief dances between furnace and shaping table. He adds glass and shapes it either in a cherrywood block, a heavy fold of wet newsprint or flat on a steel table.

Periodically, he blows quick, short spurts of air into the pipe which sends a bubble into the glass blob.

The glass is worked at temperatures between 2100 and 2175 degrees Farenheit, so Weisbach is forced to twirl his glass encrusted pipe in the "glory hole", as the furnace is called, in between shapings.

In order to keep the glass uniform on the pipe, Weisbach twirls the blow pipe constantly; otherwise, the glass would collect on the underside and drop off.

Gradually more and more glass is added to the blob, and more color patties are stuck to the tip.

Tension around the furnace gradually builds. In order to create the plate, Weisbach must bring the glass blob to the perfect temperature, pull it from the furnace and spin the pipe so fast that the centrifugal force flattens the blob into a platter.

"There's a certain amount of surprise in each piece," Weisbach said. "The shape and

See GLASS, Page 11

Shaun Weisbach spinning platter

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Boys/Girls to have Club in Sunnydale

The San Francisco Boys & Girls Club is coming to Visitacion Valley - specifically to Sunnydale.

"A tentative date of August 1st has been set for the opening of our newest Branch," wrote Michael D. Miller, Branch Operations Manager. "We're very excited about the potentials of this (Sunnydale) Branch site and all the possibilities before us."

A joint effort of the San Francisco Housing Authority, Sunnydale Tenants Association and the San Francisco Boys and Girls Club, this new branch is currently recruiting to fill the following positions:

Branch Manager - starting salary of $25,000 plus group life insurance, medical and dental coverage, long-term disability and a pension plan contribution plus paid vacations.

Requirements for the job include: a four year college degree with demonstrated skills and experience in supervising staff, training staff, working with urban youth, facility management, team sports, citizenship/leadership development programs, determining community needs, planning, initiating and conducting special programs.

Another job opening is for a fulltime social/recreation director at a negotiable salary of $16,500 to $19,000.

The Social/Educational Director will be under the direct supervision of the Branch Manager and responsible for planning, promoting, organizing, coordinating, conducting, and evaluating the program.

If you can demonstrate your ability in these areas and have a bachelor's degree in one of the social sciences from an accredited college, have at least one year's experience in working with youth and an understanding of group and individual dynamics, you may be just the person for this job.

S. F. Boys/Girls Club members develop skills and improve self-esteem

Persons interested in these positions should call Michael Miller at 221-0790.

The Boys and Girls Clubs are dedicated to promoting the health, education, vocation and character development of boys and girls 6 to 18. They also help young people improve self-esteem and develop skills during critical growth periods.

The Clubs attack delinquency, promote education and career opportunities, promote physical and emotional well-being, teach decision making, provide opportunities for self-fulfillment and self expression.

Environment and Outdoor Education emphasizes an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of a variety of settings, promotes wise use of natural resources and develops living and survival skills.

Visitacion Valley Dental Office

Albert Kuan, DDS

5 Peabody St. Call 239-5500
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PARENTS NIGHT OUT

A CHILDCARE MINISTRY OF
VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

PLACE: Valley Baptist Church
305 Raymond at Delta
Visitacion Valley
San Francisco

TIME: Friday evenings 6p.m. to 10p.m.

AGES: 3 to 10 years of age

COST: $1 per child -per evening

TO REGISTER: contact Valley Baptist Church, 467-6055 by the Wednesday previous, to register your child for Friday evening

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The 4 X 400 Relay team, Bantam Division: (L-R) Heather Weeks, Jimi Hogg, Kali Polk-Matthews, Nicole Wilburn and Cristina Payne.

PHOTO BY ROSEMARY HOBIN

Hutton

— Continued from Page 1

clocked in at 12.33 in the 100 meter dash and a 28.39 for the 200 meter hurdles.

Damien Rand, 11, brought home the most medals. His Midget Boys team came in 4th place in the 4x400 meter relay and in the 4x100 meter relay, and he came in 5th in the 400 meter race. Damien is in his first year with the Club and will be a seventh grader at Bridgemont in the fall.

The Bantam Girls Relay Team, Nicole Wilburn (who's invited to the Hershey Nationals), Gini Hogg, Kali Polk-Matthews and Cristina Payne, came in 6th place in the 4x400 meter relay and each girl achieved her personal best time.

Nicole Wilburn is in her third season with the Club. A 5th grader at Bret Harte Elementary, she is one of the Club's most dedicated runners and one of the fastest in her age group.

In the Midget Boys relays, the Hutton team of Damien Rand, Sani Cooks, Jelani Hogg and Kenneth Smith (anchor) took 4th place in the 4x100 relay. They also took 4th place in the 4x400 relay; however, Jeff Mellin ran in the position of Jelani Hogg.

Kenneth Smith, 12, will be in the seventh grade at Martin Luther King, Jr. school. He also has been invited to the Hershey National Finals in Pennsylvania in August.

The Billy Hutton Track Club, a project of the Tides Foundation, is open to any child, seven years of age and older. No previous track experience is necessary, but the Club is looking for kids who are eager to train and compete.

Practices will begin again in March at SFSU track from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Interested athletes should call 668-1329 and leave their name and address for next season's mailing.

PHOTO BY ROSEMARY HOBIN

Kenneth Smith runs in a relay.

If your organization has a notice to pin on our bulletin board, send the information to Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., SF 94134. Deadline 20th each month.

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Congratulations, GRAPEVINE, on 5 years in VisValley

Beginning August 4, 1990, we are offering these specials for our 33rd Anniversary in the dry cleaning business in Visitacion Valley. On Wednesdays and Saturdays ONLY, our prices will be:

Sportcoasts/windbreakers	$2.50
Jackets, plain	$2.50
Sports shirt, lt.wt	$2.50
Sweaters, lt.wt	$2.50
Pants	$2.50
Skirts	$2.50
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Little Hollywood Reports

By Don Bertone

The next general membership of the Little Hollywood Association will be on the second Tuesday of the month, August 14th, 7 p.m. at 120 Lathrop Avenue, The Korean Presbyterian Church. Everyone in VisValley is invited to attend our meetings because most of the issues that we talk about affect us all. For more information call 467-9669.

Please note that unless this article appears in the GRAPEVINE announcing a meeting, there will be no meeting for that month.

Dues of $3 per year per household can always be paid at any meeting. Special interests or problems can always be brought up at any meeting.

This GRAPEVINE is delivered free to your house or can be picked up at newsboxes and stores on Leland Avenue. If you don't get one, call us and we'll tell you how you can.

Supervisor Jim Gonzalez will be at this meeting to speak on his ordinance which is based on Proposition D, the Neighborhood Beautification and Graffiti Clean-Up Fund. Jim has been out to our meetings in the past and has been very responsive to our issues and problems, so be sure to attend this one if you have anything that you want to say to him.

Our new police captain, Rich Holder, will be at this meeting to introduce himself and hear about some of the problems that we have in this neighborhood with the truck traffic, Clubhouse Bar, and anything else that needs to be brought to his attention.

The architects from Hood - Miller Associates will be back at this meeting with new plans for what they want to develop on Hester Avenue. They are asking for 40 houses to be built with 32 of them to have basement apartments We have met with them in the past and the residents have repeatedly said no to anything that will not fit in with the character of our single family home style neighborhood.

These type of houses will cause nothing by headaches forever on that small block of Hester. When they are finished, that means that 70 more families will be living on that block with at least 150 more cars that will need parking places. This is happening in other places around VisValley and they are being called "affordable" at $400,000 a piece.

The only people who will be benefiting from them are the developers, because the buyers will have to rent their basements out just to help make the house payments! This problem is so widespread that the San Francisco Housing Coalition has come out with a policy statement that says NO to this type of destructive development anywhere in the city.

Open Letter to Wilson Hi's Parents & Friends

The officers and members of the Woodrow Wilson Athletic Booster Club (WWABC) bid you greetings. We invite you to join the WWABC Club. Your membership, support and participation will be greatly appreciated by the coaches and student athletes at Wilson.

Our organization, which was founded at the beginning of the '88/89 school year, has a stated goal of providing activities that will generate income for the Wilson Athletic Department.

We feel this help is necessary because of funding cutbacks which all of Californias schools have experienced.

We want to do all we can to ensure that Wilson's current and future athletes are capable of competing on a comparable level with any school in the state. This cannot occur if the Athletic Department is limited in funding.

In addition, when we are successful in parent participation our fundraising efforts generate additional money, and additional money generates equipment, transportation, and other resources which has a definite impact on athletic performance and team spirit.

All I am asking of you, as last year's president, is to put one hand and perhaps a foot worth of participation towards our effort and then watch how far it can go for our kids. We currently have several fundraisers in the works:

If you like to travel there is a trip to Reno this Thanksgiving weekend (Friday and Saturday, November 24-25, 1990). This one of our major fundraisers.

If you have time during the day, you can participate in our refreshment sales at our home games. We sell links, pop corn, chips, soft drinks, and candy.

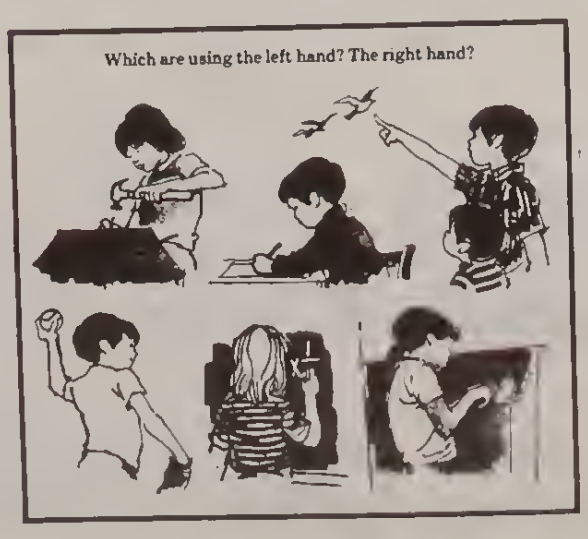
If you enjoy cooking there are bake sales scheduled throughout the year. We'll need cakes, cookies, brownies, cup cakes, and beverages.

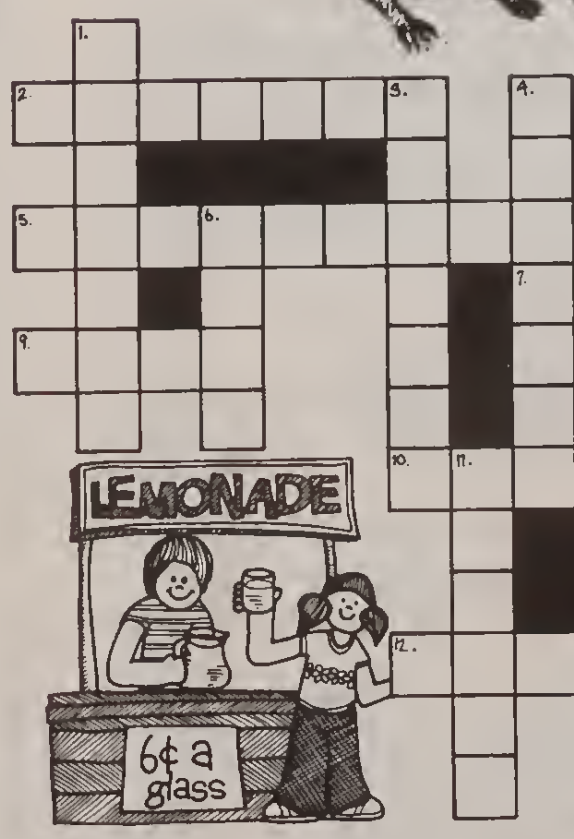
With the beginning of the 1990/91 school year, election of officers will occur and our fundraising will begin. We encourage you to sign up for membership and attend our first meeting on September 18 at 7 p.m. in the Gym. You will be surprised how much you can accomplish in your spare time and the amount of fun you can have assisting in a worthwhile cause, so sign up now!

To sign up call Marva Curry, President (337-8930).

Thank You,
Marva Curry
WWABC

Just for Kids





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bees
crying
glasses
Indians
kitchen
nothing
pounds
rest
rooster
sandwich

ACROSS

Write the correct word in the blanks and then in the puzzle.

2. When I say I have _____, I mean I don't have anything.
5. Someone who explores outerspace is called an _____.
7. My baby sister is _____ because she is hungry.
9. _____ make the honey I eat on toast.
10. Would you like some mustard on your _____?
12. The fat lady weighed over 300 _____.

DOWN

1. Did you hear the _____ crow early this morning?
3. Tim can't read without his _____.
4. Most people do their cooking in the _____.
6. If you are so tired, why not go _____ for a while?
8. _____ were living in America before others came.
11. This puzzle is so simple _____ can do it.

Bayside houses lit way for wary cattle

By Matthew Brady

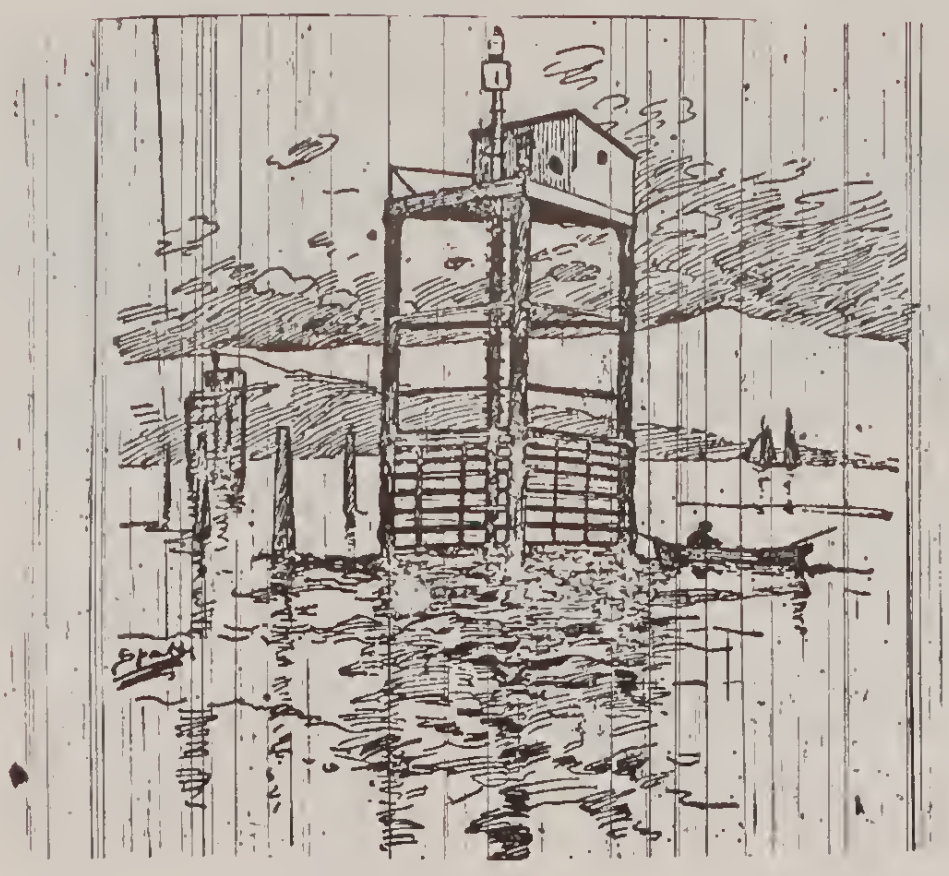
The strangest lighthouses on San Francisco Bay were the stake lights off Point San Bruno, just below Visitacion Valley. These beacons were of benefit to men living in the Valley, for they led to work

Until the 1870's there was no need for a cluster of lighthouses south of Hunters, Point, but navigation aids became a necessity when the Baden Meat Company built its stockyards along the bay shore and started barging cattle in from freighters at night. In the darkness the cattle were less fearful of their new surroundings.

Engineers for the Pacific Coast Lighthouse Department, at 205 Stockton Street, were staring at a complex problem. The conditions here were most unusual, occurring nowhere else in the country. None of the lighthouse systems in use would work in the body of water.

One problem was the occasional southeaster which would churn up the surface of the water and make the ordinary stake lights used at the mouths of rivers and in sloughs not practicable. These were simply lights on poles (or stakes) that were driven into the riverbed. And a trio of lighthouses on the shore was not possible, since the contours of the San Bruno hills would not allow lights to be seen from a certain direction.

The mariner who found a solution to the building of the Point San Bruno lights was a retired shipmaster with the improbable name of Captain Mariner, who had been employed by the Baden Meat Company as a consultant in the building if its new bulkhead. What he proposed was three



The historic stake lighthouses

identical lights off the Point, one within the dredged channel and the other two about a quarter of a mile from land in shallow water. The latter could be reached only by a small workboat.

The main structure of each was a three-cornered platform built on three piles driven into the tidal mud and rising about 20 feet above the water at low tide. Each side of the platform measured about 12 feet. A small house on one side of it was used for materials needed in filling and trimming the lamps. A fourth pile, which rose ten feel above the platform, supported the navigation light and was used as a ladder by the keeper.

The lamps, known as tubular lens lanterns, were about two feet high and nine inches in diameter and gave off light equal to about 20 candlepower. The oil reservoir on top was constructed so that it would not become heated up from the blame below. Mineral oil was used to feed the the wick, as on an old-fashioned student lamp.

The lamps were made to burn eight days without attention. still, Captain Mariner, now appointed keeper of the trio of lighthouses, tended them every day in good weather.

What was different about his method was that he did some of his tending from the bay shore. Every night he would walk over the hills, keeping a weather eye on the Point San Bruno beacons out on the water. When the weather was pleasant he also rowed out in the early morning to fill and trim the glims.

But Point San Bruno was at the foot of a range of hills, which made for uncertain atmospheric conditions, and on many days, even when the sky was transparent and the weather warm, a cold wind would sneak across the bay, creating bothersome squalls.

At first Captain Mariner would row out to his lighthouses by himself, but then one late morning while he was checking a light alone a storm came up. The tower was shaken so violently by waves that almost reached the platform, he thought each moment that the piles would be swept away. Next his boat went adrift. Even after the storm blew off, it was many hours before he was rescued. From then on he always had another tender in the boat.

After the Baden Meat Packing Company ceased using barges to bring cattle to the stockyards and instead depended on SP boxcars to do the job, the lights were recognized as being of such importance to bay shipping that the Lighthouse Department still maintained them for many years.

Soon oyster houses (frame houses built on piling amongst the beds) decorated that section of the bay. Early fliers landing in misty weather would use these white buildings as beacons when landing at the airport.

Tree Planting Proposed for Valley Streets

Friends of the Urban Forest at Work

San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest is a non-profit organization committed to promoting a greener and healthier environment.Trees add beauty and increase property values. Trees absorb noise and pollution along busy streets and provide natural form and color around buildings and concrete.

"The human animal needs nature's peace. The environment matters. Clean, orderly, wide streets, spacial lawns and majestic trees communicate a very different message than blasted, graffiti-smeared barren urban landscapes."

GRAPEVINE readers may be eligible to apply for low cost trees though the Friends of the Urban Forest.

"Trees are not going to produce miracles,"said Anthony V. Bouza, Minnesota Gaming Commissioner in a recent paper, entitled, 'Trees and Crime Prevention', "but their presence is important. They are a statement of caring. their absence is a testament to neglect.

Over 9,000 trees have been planted in San Francisco during the past nine years. As part of the Friends work, they help property owners select the right trees, get city permits, supervise contractors to cut the sidewalk and drill the soil, order the trees and supplies, provide necessary tools and coordinate a community planting day.

San Francisco Friends of the Urban Forest is a non-profit organization committed to promoting a greener and healthier environment.

If you are interested in finding out how to get a tree in front of your house, church or business, call 543-5000 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ciao Pinin

Yucatan is easily reached. The country is uniformly flat and, at the time I was there, they were hard at work paving roads. they were cutting through jungle growth without bothering with detours for the convenience of the motorists. during paving or, rather, tarring, all traffic was held back until they were finished with one chosen section.

Here is where I got an insight on the personality of the Mexican motorist. Put a Mexican behind the steering wheel and he is King of the road. He bides no obstructions and no competition.

I was caught behind an endless line of cars waiting for the convenience of the road workers. It was a long wait under a scorching tropical sun, and the line was getting longer and longer.

At last, hours later, the flagman gave us the right of way. There was an instant awakening leading to Pandemonium - a cacophony of blasting horns, screams and curses. From back of the line, they raced to the front, with last man first, and every man for himself.

It was jungle country with jungle tactics. Traffic was snarled and came to a standstill. Men left their seats to inspect dented fenders, demanding retribution from the offending driver.

We could not get through. There was no way to pull off the road. roads in Mexico, at the time, had no shoulder. If you had a flat tire, you fixed it in the middle of the road.

I sat in my car and watched the show. I was in no hurry. Under such circumstances I had one philosophy that always pulled me through, "Thank God I don't live here!"

I remember talking to a highway patrolman regarding the recklessness of Mexican drivers. He shrugged his shoulders.

"I know it. I am cruising around when they suddenly pass me going eighty miles an hour."

"Don't you chase them?! I asked.

"Do you think I am crazy?"

Yucatan is a beautiful section of Mexico. The Mayas are still sporting their colorful costumes and still speak their own language. They are peaceful and friendly.

There are temple ruins everywhere. Chichen-Itza' and Uxmal are the most popular ones. I went to Isla Mujeres which was being readied for the tourist trade. Strangely, this Isle of Women reminded me of the Isle of Man in England, where I went to school. The two islands should mingle.

Destroying the pristine beauty of a tropical island to make room for a playground and a noisy airport for the benefit of tourists is a desecration of Mexico.

'Be sure to lock your car and do not leave any valuables in sight,' the policeman said.

I saw a few fishing villages which were soon to be demolished. McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken will inevitably follow.

I left Yucatan and headed for Belize City, the former capital of British Honduras, now called Belize. The road to Belize City was a disaster. It consisted of one single lane over one hundred miles in length, all broken up and neglected since Biblical times. Both times when I met a car coming from the opposite direction I had to squeeze off the road and stop to let him go by.

Belize is black man country and English is the official language. The best thing about Belize is its cuisine. It is Creole at its best and it beats New Orleans in every way. The worst thing is the boisterous, unruly people.

As soon as I parked in the central square, a policeman approached me.

"Be sure to lock your car, and do not leave any valuables in sight."

The police were there before me, but all I got was their sympathy.

After a few hours of sight-seeing and taking photographs, I drove across the Saint Charles river to another section of town. Again a policeman ran up to me with the same warning.

What goes on? I wondered. I was soon to find out.

At dusk the stores began to close, and I mean close. Every door and window was protected by corrugated metal shutters with no glass exposed anywhere. Window shopping in the evening in Belize is out of the question.

After dinner the streets came to life. I was soon enmeshed with a crowd of cavorting men, emerging from all directions, singing, shouting, fighting. It was bedlam. The police kept out of sight. A few saloons, a movie and a couple of restaurants were open to the public. All the action was in the streets.

I soon got bored and, having procured a room at the Golden Dragon, one block from the Police Station, I decided to call it a day. Because of what I had seen, I was worried about my car. My host assured me it would be safe if I parked in front of the hotel where a watchman was on duty all through the night.

At one o'clock in the morning I was awakened by a knock on the door.

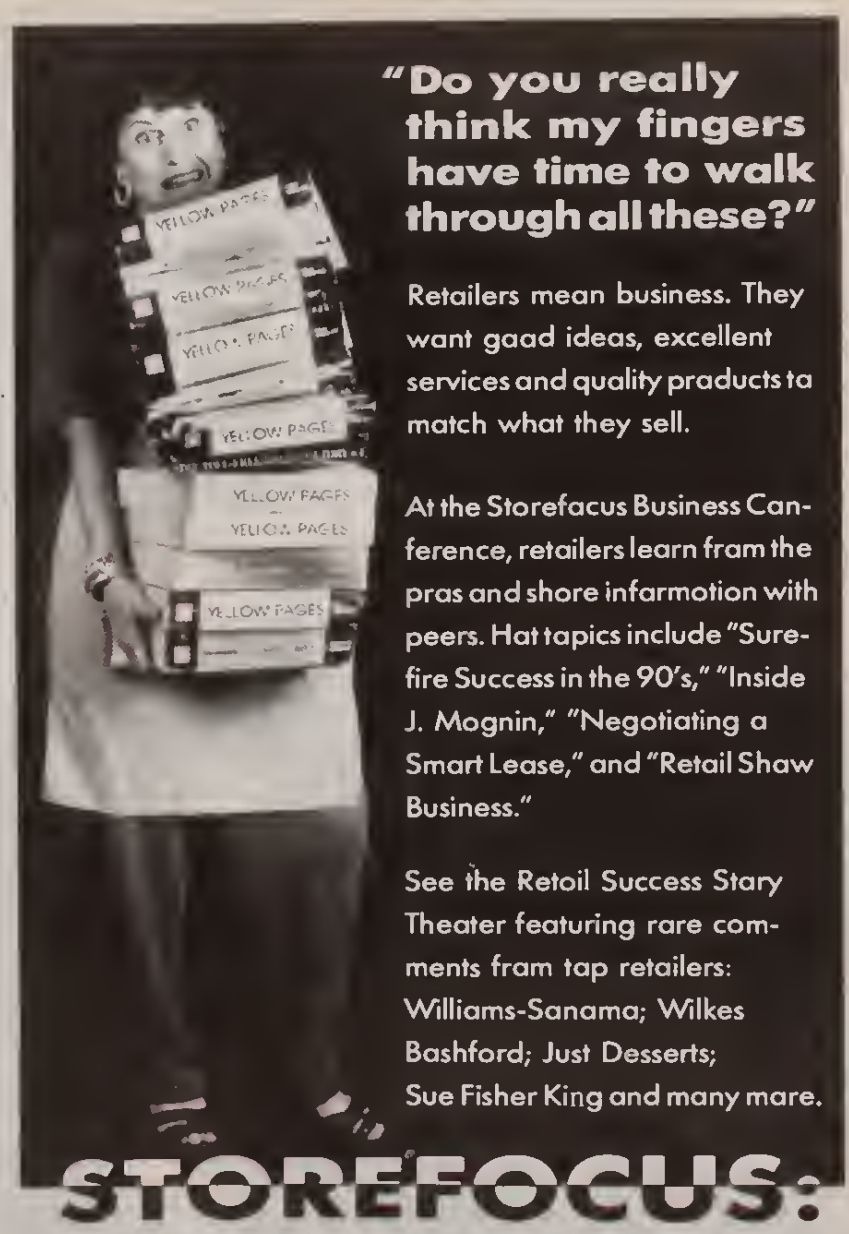
"Mister Porter, get up! Your car has been broken into."

I opened the door to a little one-eyed man. He was the watchman, he said, and the apologies began. He was contrite, he was sorry, he could not help it. From where he was sitting, he could not possibly see my car at all time.

I really felt sorry for the man and, in spite of my losses, I ended up comforting him.

The police were there before me, but all I got was their sympathy. When I started to comment to the Police Captain about the obvious lawlessness in his town, he cut me short with polite, "I heard that such things also happen the United States."

How true!



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In the Parks

For over thirty years, Berkeley Farms, in cooperation with San Francisco 49ers, has sponsored the Junior 49ers Program. Any athletic, education, religious, or service youth group whose members are under 16 may receive up to 36 free tickets to a 49ers pre-season or regular season home game.

Groups leaders should send their requests to Berkeley Farms at the community centers listed in the county nearest you. Write about the group and indicate the number of tickets needed, up to 36. Requests must be received at least two weeks before the game you wish to attend. See the deadline dates which are following.

Every community center listed will hold a drawing from the requests received for each game within two days after the deadline date. One group from each center will be chosen and notified immediately to receive a maximum of 36 tickets, including a limited number of tickets for adults who provide transportation and supervision. Remember, your group has ten games to apply for free tickets, but a request must be submitted separately for each game. A particular group will be selected only once during a given year.

Write to Berkeley Farms, care of: San Francisco Junior 49ers, Sunset Recreation Center, 28th Ave. & Lawton St., San Francisco, CA 94122.

Raiders	Aug 11
Seahawks	Aug 31
Redskins	Sep 16
Falcons	Sep 23
Steelers	Oct 21
Browns	Oct 28
Buccaneers	Nov 18
Rams	Nov 25
Giants	Dec 03
Saints	Dec 23

The Junior 49ers Program is a youth group program sponsored by Berkeley Farms in cooperation with the San Francisco 49ers.

Saturday: Aug. 4: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. 17th Annual Nihonmachi Street Fair, Japanese Peace Plaza, Post and Buchannon Sts., call 221-9500 for information.

9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Annual Samoan Flag Day Celebration, Crocker Amazon Playground, Geneva Ave. and Moscow St., call 775-4767 for information.

Sunday: Aug 5: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pet Prevent-A-Care, Inc. vaccination clinic for dog and cats, Dog Training Area, 36th Ave. and Fulton St. in Golden Gate Park, call (707) 584-8222 for information.

2 p.m. 1990 Midsummer Music Festival, the Berkeley Shakespeare Festival performs Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor". Stern Grove, 19th Ave. and Sloat Blvd.

Thursday Aug. 9: 12:30 p.m. Make-A-Circus, a Free Summer Festival, Dolores Park, 19th and Dolores Sts., call 776-8477 for information.

Signups are now being taken at neighborhood playgrounds and recreation centers for a Girls' Basketball League conducted by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

Girls 17 years and under are eligible to play. All participants must live or attend school in San Francisco.

For more information call League Director Pete Oquendo at 753-7029.

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66 Raymond Ave....467-4499.....Pat Crocker, Director

Bulletin Board

Art you can touch

This summer a novel art exhibition will offer art lovers and visually impaired people a rare chance to get a feel for modern art. Pieces at the "Art

Touching" exhibition will be available for patrons to touch, and docents will help blind visitors experience the show, which runs August 15 to September 8 at the South of Market Center Cultural Gallery in San Francisco.

Among the displayed pieces of sculpture, ceramics and textiles are tactile treats for the hands as well as the eye, including haunting busts in sinuous bronze, abstract marble sculpture, animal hides, beaded Indian baskets and sitting nudes. Special items from the California Academy of Sciences, the Fine Arts Museums and Strybing Arboretum round out the textural variety of the show.

"We've worked very hard to be able to offer people a real feast for the senses," said Dr. Rose Resnick, executive director of The Rose Resnick Center for the Blind and Handicapped, the non-profit organization that is sponsoring the show. "It's important that visually impaired and sighted folks have this opportunity to explore these beautiful items with their hands."

A special opening reception for the show is scheduled for August 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the gallery located at 934 Brannan Street. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. Special docent-lead tours for the visually impaired are conducted Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m. and at 1 and 3 on Saturdays. Special private tours can be arranged in advance.

The Rose Resnick Center for the Blind and Handicapped is a private, non - profit community center dedicated to the independence and integration of visually handicapped children and adults in San Francisco. For more information, please call 441-1980.

Towers — Continued from Page 1

elevators, I admit, are old and outdated, but we have them on a service contract and Westinghouse keeps them running.

"We are working closely with the Potrero police station, and hope to employ off-duty police officers in our security team.

Burger Management is planning a $7.1 million make-over for the Towers which will include new elevators.

"When we embarked on this rental campaign, Marie was ashamed to show the vacant units with their patched walls and floors, "Harbatkin said. "She came to me and asked if we couldn't redecorate the units before renting them. She was right. I decided to go ahead and fix them up right using our operating money. Now we've spent a lot and we need to rent the units."

There are both two and three bedroom units available. Some have balconies. The views from these high-rise buildings are marvelous. The apartments look out on either San Bruno Mountain or McLaren Park and the Bay. The apartments are spacious and suited to family living.

The Towers sponsor several programs for tenants. The Recreation Center has a federal lunch program and activities for children. Burger Management pays for field trips and team uniforms and playing fees. The Center under director, Vernon Long has regularly scheduled recreation activities such as exercise programs, games including ping pong and billiards, table and video games.

Rev. Eddie Welborn of the United Ministries Evangelical Church in Bayview is planning to provide ocial services, job placement, counseling, and referral services as well as tutoring for school children.

Geneva Towers consists of two 20 story buildings which currently houses 2,000 people. There are 580 apartments.

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Centervoice — Continued from Page 2

In addition, when they have some spending money that they have earned themselves, they will not be so attracted by the only kind of life that is available to them now.

You see, their parent(s) are away at work all day because mothers can no longer afford to stay home. There are not nearly enough after school activities for the numbers of latchkey youth that exist nationwide. For most of these kids, the only adults they have to talk to during the afterschool hours are pushers and other undesirables that hang out on the street corners just looking for young children to employ as errand runners and lookouts.

Wouldn't they be safer if they could be accepted in some of the after school job programs that have counselors who monitor not only the youth workers, but the jobsites and employers?

I know that the timing of this letter is somewhat unfortunate, with the scandal about the fast food restaurants taking advantage of the youth. I am not, however, talking about those types of jobs. It might be difficult to set up special structures to place and monitor the employment of the younger youth, but I don't think so, since the youth after school employment programs and summer job programs are already in place, and function much as I have in mind.

Please consider the above. I have been thinking about this for several months now, and talking about it with other people who run youth employment programs. They all agree with me that this type of opportunity for the 11, 12 and 13 years old would do much to help the youth before they lose interest. Once interest is lost in inner-city neighborhoods, it never comes back. By this suggestion, it is hoped that more of our children will be well motivated to work when they grow us as well.

Sincerely Yours,
Julia A. Kavanagh
Executive Director
Visitacion Valley
Community Center

Weisbach shaping molten glass

Glass

Continued from Page 3

the way the color forms the design just happens."

Weisbach began his craft studies in 1976 in junior high school in a ceramics class. He made his first piece of glass at a workshop in Berkeley, and fell in love with the medium. He went off to the University of Colorado in Boulder, won a Ford Foundation scholarship, and attended the California College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland where he earned a Bachelor in Fine Arts degree.

Opening his own studio in 1982, Weisbach's career took a giant step forward when Neiman Marcus bought his line after seeing his work in a craft show in Texas in 1984.

Now Weisbach ships glassware all over the United States, Tokyo, France and Canada.

. Shaun Weisbach is one of many creative and talented people who make up our southeastern section of San Francisco.

Weisbach's work along with 350 of the nation's top craft artists, selected from more than 1600 applicants by a jury of prominent experts will be displayed at the Pacific States Craft Fair at Fort Mason Center, August 10-12.

Jewelry, leatherware, puppets, furniture, dolls, baskets, quilts, musical instruments, ceramic vessels, glass sculptures will be on exhibit and for sale, and the public will have an opportunity to meet and speak with the artists.

For information, call 896-5060.

The GRAPEVINE thanks you, our readers, for your encouragement and support through the past four years.

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Agnos

Continued from Page 2

The critical shortage of low-cost housing, mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse, unemployment and family breakups.

Over the past two years, San Francisco has been shifting city policy toward helping homeless people live independently by addressing the root causes of their homelessness.

After months of planning and coordination with homeless advocates and even the homeless themselves, San Francisco opened two multi-service centers designed to connect homeless people with health and social services and, ultimately, the housing they need to stabilize their lives.

When a homeless person walks through the door of a multi-service center, he or she is met by a team of health and social welfare workers who are there to refer them to the resources they need to address the underlying cause of their homelessness.

Housing, job training, mental health programs and drug and alcohol programs will all be part of this comprehensive approach to homelessness.

The centers are a first stop-not a dead end. The ultimate goal is to get the clients into transitional and permanent housing and onto a track of self-reliance.

During the two years these centers and the programs supporting them were put into place, there was criticism that nothing was being done to solve the homeless problem.

But I could not in good conscience simply tell homeless people in Civic Center to "get out of town" as was done in other cities, when we did not have a humane and decent alternative inside.

However, once that alternative was in place, I could not in good conscience allow them to stay outdoors at night. I believe that when decent alternatives exist, people lose their right to sleep outside.

Some homeless advocates argued differently. When the options were in place and the police began to enforce the "no sleeping" law, the same advocates who had criticized government for moving too slowly now said we moved too fast.

Ironically, the same people who for years called attention to the plight of people sleeping on the streets suddenly began to argue that no one should be deprived of their "right" to do so. I do not believe that someone has a "right" to sleep on the pavement when a humane and decent alternative exists inside.

Meanwhile, children, seniors and lunching city workers, once intimidated by the homeless, have returned to Civic Center. It is, in a sense, a return to normalcy for this part of the city.

What is the symbolism of these events for San Francisco? Does it signal yet another homeless backlash, or perhaps that we have solved the homeless problem? In fact, it signals neither.

If it works, this San Francisco model, like the AIDS model before it, may yet be copied by other U.S. cities. For now, it has silenced critics of the homeless: Merchants, newspaper editorial writers and publicity-seeking politicians are giving the program a chance.

We do not claim that this modest, if hopeful start means San Francisco has solved its homeless problem. We have taken the best advice of homeless experts in developing a comprehensive system we think will make a difference.

In a civilized society, we have an obligation to do more than just step over the homeless: We have to step up to the challenge they represent and find real solutions.

Editorial — *Continued from Page 2*

The GRAPEVINE has had a close association with the local public schools. Vincent Chao, VVES; Walter Haub, Wilson High; John Curran, VVMS; Toby Levine, M.L. King, Jr. Middle School have been especially helpful.

To our loyal advertisers - Thank You, Cathy Kline of Grubb & Ellis; Henry Schindel, John King Senior Center, Oliver Lee of Visitacion Valley Pharmacy, St. James Presbyterian Church, Community Boards, Albert Kuan, DDS, Visitacion Valley Community Center and Senior Center - Thanks for sticking with us through thick and thin.

We hope we can hold out for another five years - five years which will see dynamic changes in the southeast section of San Francisco. Some of the immediate issues confronting us are: The development of vacant land; land-fill and toxic waste disposal; gentrification; new business development; changing ethnic populations; rehabilitation of Sunnydale and Geneva Towers with the potential for displacement of tenants. Yet, we will still have to wrestle with today's issues: violence, drugs, random shootings, education and employment of young people, neighborhood beautification, local social and medical sevices, and so on.

Our community needs a newspaper. We would welcome your help in keeping the GRAPEVINE going. If you have money-making ideas, want to advertise, or if you have deep pockets and wish to make a tax deductible donation, we would love to hear from you.

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